

Sheriff Jennifer L. Harlow Testimony on H. 476

At this time the Vermont Sheriff's Association has no position at this time.

Generally the VSA disagrees with a mandated policy. At this time the state has created several. The VSA agrees and supports that LE's should not abuse their partners, children and families on or off duty.

The VSA believes LE should be held accountable if they cause harm to the partners and/or family members. We want these investigations to be done completely and thoroughly.

When reading this bill, the Sheriffs have no presence and I would like to see that change so we have a voice at this table.

Personally and with my experience I feel it is positive we are considering looking to help LE who may be involved in a DV/SA relationship and are having a difficult time safety planning. I also feel that we need to do better in holding those accountable who do harm so those who are being harmed feel safe to disclose.

H.41 This bill has heard a considerable amount of testimony. This is a pathway for defendants and people who have committed acts of domestic violence to go to a Restorative Justice Center and engage in services, where other individuals may be facing criminal charges. We may see individuals who may escape consequences, where others may lose their livelihoods. In an example of someone who has been doing harm for ten (10) years with no criminal record, they may engage in the Restorative Justice Center – then they become a law enforcement officer.